

Chairboys Gas

*A Magazine by Supporters
of
Wycombe Wanderers F.C.*

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Chairboys

Gas

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EDITORIAL

There are strange things that draw the attention of the public - the attraction of a shortsighted Englishman throwing himself off a cliff has captured the imagination of most of the world - while at the more placid confines of High Wycombe, it seems that Wycombe Wanderers have finally attracted the locals despite some seemingly suicidal performances this season.

I never thought I would see the day again when over a 1,000 spectators would turn up regularly to Loakes Park - seeing the terraces packed again is a great sight. Obviously this proves that the only place for the Club is in the Conference (or higher?) but I'm afraid that we're going to have to live with the fear of relegation taking this place from us, for a few more weeks yet. No matches this season are more important to us than those in the closing weeks of March when we play Northwich, Welling and Bath on consecutive Saturdays. We follow these with potentially difficult games at Macclesfield, at home to Weymouth and away to Barnet and then Telford. Our final games are at home to Altrincham and away to Lincoln. No predictions here but for the sake of the fans that have turned up and travelled week in week out, let there be justice.

Finally did anyone hear those 'Sillymen' directing some mindless racial abuse at John Granville at a recent GMVC game? The supporters in question were soon silenced when we scored but still weren't too upset in the bar after the game as they were convinced they would be soon visiting Wembley in the Trophy Final. There's justice for you.

Enjoy the reading

Paul Lewis

Contributions and assistance for this issue from Phil Ball, Ian Blacklidge, Simon Burrage, Steve Maguire and Pete Oxbrow

BEHIND THE GOAL with Simon Burrage.

I suppose all you devoted CG readers out there are expecting this column to dwell at some length on the controversial encounter with Sutton United. You're right. I suppose also that you might expect this column to thrash out some fairly severe criticism of the referee of that particular match. You're wrong. Now, before you spit your beer all over these pages, let me assure you that I am not about to defend the referee's performance. It is simply that this magazine, sold openly on the Club's premises, must not make remarks which could be considered to 'bring the game into disrepute', and let's face it, if any Wycombe supporter were to put into print his or her view of Mr Wenham's handling of the match there would be one heavy disrepute charge on the way from the F A. So I will now, for the benefit of Wycombe supporters who were not present, give a (hopefully) factual account of the Sutton fixture without making any criticism whatsoever of the match officials. Firstly, I must say that our boys played very well, albeit against a Sutton team somewhat weakened by injuries; and yes, we would have gladly settled for a point before the game began. But with the Wanderers battling admirably in front of the now customary excellent away support, and apparently having won all 3 points, it was a horrible disappointment to see 2 points taken away in such circumstances. The splendid Kevin Durham earned us a clear-cut penalty for a 1-0 lead and we looked set to hold that lead as half-time approached. Sutton were on the attack shortly before the break but seemed to be making little progress until suddenly the referee blew his whistle and then proceeded to explain to the players that he was now awarding a penalty to Sutton. Not a single player or spectator appealed for such a decision, and few seemed to have any idea what it was that Mr Wenham had apparently spotted. Just to rub salt into the wound, John Granville saved the kick but was beaten to the rebound. As we changed ends at half-time, Sutton supporters, standing directly alongside where the 'incident' had taken place, were still putting their suggestions to each other as to why their team had been given the penalty (The offence was later confirmed to be handball against Keith Barrett).

The Wycombe team responded well, however, and again matched the home side in every department in the second period. They deservedly regained the lead when Nigel Taylor shot against the bar and though the rebound dropped slightly behind the on-rushing Mark West, 'Westie' managed to flick the ball over the line with a marvellously instinctive 'back-flip'; scenes of jubilation followed as 'Westie' celebrated in front of the travelling Chairboys/girls contingent. Sutton had been showing such a lack of imagination up front, that even with 10/15 minutes still remaining it seemed likely that the goal would be enough to earn 3 crucial League points. That outcome was still very much on the cards as the 90 minutes mark approached. Most of us were aware that 2 or 3 minutes of injury time were due to be added, but Wycombe fans were becoming understandingly anxious as the referee awarded another free-kick to Sutton in the 95th minute. I say another free-kick because the men from Surrey had had 2 or 3 similar set-pieces in the preceeding minutes, and on each occasion had lofted the ball directly into the hands of John Granville, whose handling had been excellent. So in came the free-kick - surely Sutton's last chance to prevent their old rivals from leaving Gander Green Lane with a famous victory - and what a surprise, it's the same tactic, loft the ball straight at the 'keeper. JG goes up, gets both hands on the ball, everyone momentarily breathes a sigh of relief before our man is clattered over by Sutton's Les Dennis, probably just frustrated that his team mate had wasted another free-kick. The ball runs to Sutton full-back Robyn Jones, who instinctively taps it into the empty net. Everyone looks at the referee in expectation of the inevitable free-kick - the referee is running back to the centre-circle. Granville receives attention from the trainer. I hadn't heard a Conference goal greeted by such silence since Dagenham's last visit to Loakes Park. I didn't see a single Sutton player congratulate the goalscorer. In fact they all looked rather bewildered and somewhat embarrassed by their good fortune. Most Sutton supporters' had long since sloped off down the road. Not surprisingly, dozens of Wycombe fans laid siege to the players tunnel to offer their opinions to the officials, and let it be said, they were not expressing good-natured acceptance of the decisions. It will probably be said in some quarters that those supporters were "a disgrace to the Club" in demonstrating in this way but, if anything, I thought everyone was remarkably well-restrained in the circumstances. Had the situation arisen on a Football League

continued over.....

.....continuation

ground, no doubt there would have been more than just insults flying around.

Those supporters would no doubt have been angered still further by the Mail On Sunday showing the goal time as '89'. I'm told it is the home club who supply these details - why on earth did Sutton, and so many other clubs insist on putting out blatant lies for goal times? What's the problem? If a goal is scored deep into injury-time, why does 92 or 93 have to become 88 or 89? Has there been some mysterious directive from the GMVC to pretend that injury time doesn't exist in the Conference? I, for one, was also rather disappointed by the Midweek's strangely unbalanced report of the controversies. "SUTTON'S CONMEN FOOL THE REFEREE" blazed the sub-headline while the report seemed to be labouring under the impression that your average Wycombe supporter had left Sutton seething with anger...over a collision between Mark West and the Sutton 'keeper, Trevor Roffey?! The penalty award to Sutton, the extraordinary amount of time added on and the nature of Sutton's eventual equaliser all accorded little more than a raised eyebrow.

No Wycombe fan needs to be told that those 2 points could easily mean the difference between staying up or being relegated at the end of the season. Soon we'll be past March and into April. Each game; each check of the League table will be more tense than the last. It's always tempting fate to look too far ahead but surely barring miracles, Dagenham and Wealdstone are now beyond salvation. Yeovil look set to make their long-awaited return to the Conference (Slough seem determined to finish around about 3rd place, as usual). Chorley are going well at the top of the NPL and we can only hope that our new friends from Dartford will keep their nerve over the coming weeks. As for ourselves, we'll just have to slog it out with Bath, Northwich and Welling to avoid League position No.20 While on the subject, it's at least nice to know exactly what we have to do to avoid going down, ie finish anywhere above the bottom 3. Thank God, we don't have that circus known as 'play-offs' to contend with, though there might still be some 'progressive' types somewhere who think it'd be a good thing if we were to finish in 18th place only to be sent down by losing a play-off to whoever finished 20th. Personally, I'm glad that such shameful injustices are not inflicted on our level of the game - but don't forget folks, the Football League will be having the whole damn farce again this season, and dare I say our wonderful tabloid press will again try to convince us of what a tremendous success the play-offs are. Sorry, I don't regard a travesty of justice a 'success'. Try asking a Wolves fan if he thinks them a success - Wolves finished 4th in Division 4 last season and did not get promoted. Aldershot had finished 9, yes nine, points behind them in 6th place and were promoted in their place. What a brilliant idea.

Now on to the Berks & Bucks tie at Windsor and the home GMVC fixture with Macclesfield - how's that for a contrast. Any ability to play attractive football counted for absolutely nothing at Stag Meadow - don't let anyone tell you Windsor beat us, we beat ourselves. We may not have had the necessary 'qualities' to survive there, but Macclesfield at Loakes Park - no problem! It's probably unfair to pick out just a couple of players for special praise from such a thoroughly professional team performance...but I'm going to anyway. Mark West was a revelation - so often regarded as simply a poacher of goals - though that in itself is a vital contribution - he looked so positive, eager and comfortable in possession of the ball and produced some excellent flicks and passes. Mark Boyland was the main benefactor, with a superb hat-trick. Though he seems to be prone to spells of looking out of touch, he is undoubtedly a fine all-round striker; strong, skillfull and a good finisher. If his goals help us to avoid relegation, his transfer fee will be the best £10,000 this Club has ever spent.

Finally, a question. Did you go to see Elkie Brooks at the Royal Albert Hall a few weeks ago? No? Well, football fans, this was apparently part of the Football League's centenary celebrations. Don't ask me what Elkie Brooks or the RAH has to do with 100 years of League football - perhaps she is Graham Kelly's favourite singer? Perhaps "Pearl's a Singer" has some hidden relevance to standing on a cold terrace in Winter? I was just wondering, did they erect massive steel fences and cages in front of the stage so that the paying customers couldn't see; bring in hordes of police to arrest anyone who got over enthusiastic; keep sections of the audience behind for 20 minutes after the last song; did policemen approach Elkie Brooks groupies in the street near the venue and demand "Can I see you Elkie Brooks Fan Club Membership Card".... "Have you got your ticket?".... "Do you live around here?"....

DO THEY MEAN US? *investigated by Steve Maguire*

On the whole, support for the team in recent weeks has been great. Around 400 of us boosted the gate to a season best of 1,134 for the game with Wealdstone at Lower Mead back in January. The ELMSLIE ENDER, Wealdstone's supporters magazine, referred to Wycombe as the "land of the slopes" - a phrase I have never heard before but makes a pleasant change from going north and being called "Cockney Bastards" - they also went on to say "Talking of Wycombe supporters, the numbers were excellent, but weren't they quiet!".

The return game with Wealdstone at Loakes Park a month later was reported in the HARROW OBSERVER...*"Fellow strugglers Wycombe are not a particularly good side, but on the day they were still too good for the Stones."*

There was another good turn-out of Wycombe supporters at Sutton, the game all the papers seemed to get the score wrong - surely the correct result was 2-2 after extra time (score at 90 mins 1-2). The SUTTON HERALD said *"The visitors, struggling to climb from the echelons of the GM Vauxhall Conference, were much the better side and may have felt dropping two points was due to the referee Keith Wenham rather than Sutton's skills."* The SUTTON ADVERTISER also commented on the referee *"He awarded Sutton a penalty for reasons best known to himself and the home side's late equaliser seemed a shade lucky, Wycombe's ace goalkeeper John Granville appeared to have been fouled before Jones struck the ball home."* Last comment on the Sutton game goes to Barrie Williams, the Sutton Manager, whose post match actions were reported in the SUTTON HERALD...*"The Sutton Manager felt so strongly about it that he went into the Wycombe dressing room afterwards and told them they were the better side. One view from the dressing room was "It is nice to see one honest man here.""*

There was, of course great disappointment in the Wycombe camp when we lost at Windsor in the County Cup (although we are still 21-6 up on aggregate if you include last season's three games). Due to the massive publicity (ie none at all given by the match sponsor's the SLOUGH OBSERVER) the crowds flocked to Stag Meadow for this game. Well, actually, the 200 plus from Wycombe boosted the gate above the 500 mark, so when Windsor meet Slough in the semi-final the gate could easily be as high as around 6 or 700. On the same night that we played (?) at Windsor, Slough attracted 176 to their home Third Round tie with Hungerford.

Over the years no end of teams have blamed the slope when they have lost at Loakes Park, but there was a new slant to this theme (no pun intended) in a recent edition of the MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER. Talking about the on/off £5,000 transfer of Maidenhead United's Captain Michael Barnes, it stated *"...the decision by Barnes to stay at York Road, rather than risk his slightly weakened knee on the sloping Loakes Park pitch...."*. Incidentally, Barnes scored two goals for Maidenhead on his last appearance before signing for us, and another two goals in his first game back in Maidenhead's colours two weeks later.

Barnes' only competitive appearance for Wycombe (so far) was in the disappointing defeat at Dagenham - a game where Rolf Niven's MIDWEEK report mentioned the encouragement the team were given when we did manage to pull a goal back. True enough, but what about some of the comments from Wycombe 'supporters' when we were 2-0 down? Sean Norman probably needs no reminding that his missed penalty almost certainly cost us the game, but by judging by some comments, there seemed to be people there who thought that he missed on purpose.

Finally, is any Club Official prepared to comment on the rumour that Weymouth have made a £30,000 bid for the man at Loakes Park who they think can boost their chances of winning the title next season - groundsman Rod Lavers!



BARNET faltered badly in their promotion bid through February and into March. A 2-0 defeat at Enfield was their first League defeat for 15 games and points dropped in a 1-1 draw at Altrincham and a 2-1 loss at Maidstone saw their lead at the top cut to just a superior goal difference over rivals Lincoln City.

LINCOLN CITY's only negative point in recent weeks was their F A Trophy exit at Enfield. In the League they extended their unbeaten run to 10 games (including 8 wins) - their last defeat coming at Sutton United in November. The nearest Lincoln came to defeat during this run was also against Sutton where a goal 3 minutes from time from Trevor Matthewson at Sincil Bank cancelled out Sutton's first half goal from Francis Awaritefe. In the same match City's 'keeper Nigel Batch sustained a knee injury that will keep him out for 6 weeks - Richard Wilson, nephew of TV presenter Bob Wilson, will take over in goal in Batch's absence. Wilson made one appearance for Wycombe earlier this season in a Capital League match against Wimbledon.

ENFIELD's victory over Lincoln City in the quarter-final of the F A Trophy before an attendance of 2,239 came courtesy of a 58th minute goal from leading scorer Nick Francis. Francis also took the Mail on Sunday's goalscorer of the month award for February with 4 goals - one ahead of both Mark Boyland and Mark West at Wycombe.

CHELTENHAM TOWN's 19 year old striker Brett Angell has joined Derby County for £45,000. The fee, a record for Cheltenham, will be boosted by a further £20,000 should Angell complete 25 First Team appearances. Brett Angell's move to Derby came just a week after Cheltenham had snapped up Darren Angell. Older brother of Brett, he also joined on a free transfer from Portsmouth, and made an immediate impression when he scored on his debut at home to Northwich Victoria. Cheltenham have also signed Bath City's 25 year old 'keeper Dave Mogg for a Club record fee of £10,000. Mogg made his home debut in Town's 4-2 defeat to TELFORD UNITED in the quarter-final of the F A Trophy watched by a crowd of 3,157.

SUTTON UNITED, who have reached the final of the Surrey Senior Cup for the seventh consecutive year, have placed their 23 year old forward Francis Awaritefe on the transfer list. Awaritefe was the subject of an offer from Wycombe earlier this season but has been getting in 'hot-water' at Sutton recently following dismissals in recent games at Lincoln and against Enfield in the GMAC Cup. He scored 24 goals in 64 appearances for United.

There has been a lot of action amongst the relegation threatened clubs in recent weeks. ALTRINCHAM, who parted company with after-dinner speaker and Manager Tommy Docherty during February, have appointed former Club stalwart and England Semi-Professional Jeff Johnson as Manager. He has since taken them successfully through Trophy ties with Kettering and Fisher (after three draws) and was looking for a quarter-final replay victory over Barrow to earn a shot at Enfield in the Semi-Final.

WELLING UNITED entered March without a League victory in 1988 and only one win from their last 15 GMVC fixtures. Injuries to midfielders Ray Burgess and Phil Handford have not helped their cause but as cover they have signed Barnet midfielders John Margerrison and Ian Ferguson on loan. By strange coincidence the loan period began just five days before Welling's trip to Barnet's promotion rivals, Lincoln City.

BATH CITY paid out a Club record of £16,000 when they signed Bristol City's 23 year old midfielder Micky Tanner. Tanner, who will miss the opening games in March through injury, played on loan at Yeovil last season and scored against Wycombe in the GMAC Cup. Bath have also re-signed 21 year old midfielder Gary Fulbrook from Carlisle United for a fee of £3,000. Fulbrook joined Carlisle last September for the same fee.

Not even three points against Wycombe looks likely to prevent DAGENHAM from making the drop this season. 'The Daggers' 2-1 victory over Wycombe at Victoria Road was their first win for 16 Conference matches and also ended a run of seven consecutive defeats. Dagenham followed their victory over Wycombe with further consecutive League defeats at Northwich (0-1), at home to Lincoln (0-3) and at Boston (0-1) where 'Daggers' 'keeper Darren Williams was sent off along with Boston's Jeff Lissaman.

WEALDSTONE, who gained their first League victory of the year at Boston (Dennis Byatt scoring the only goal), suffered a 'Sutton like' experience in their GMVC match with WEYMOUTH. The game, played at AFC Bournemouth because of the state of Weymouth's pitch, saw the score standing at 1-1 when, with 15 minutes remaining, 'The Stones' 'keeper Alex Welsh was injured collecting a cross. Welsh was stretchered off and Robin Wainwright took over in goal only to concede a goal in the 106th minute of the match.

The England Semi-Professional squad for the game with Wales at Rhyl on Tuesday 15 March is:-

Andy Pape (Enfield), John McKenna (Boston United), Paul Shirtliff (Frickley Athletic), Peter Densmore (Runcorn), Dave Howell (Enfield), Shaun Teale (Weymouth), Mark Golley (Sutton United), Noel Ashford (Barnet), Antone Joseph (Telford United), Robert Codner (Barnet), Steve Brooks (Cheltenham Town), Gary Simpson (Stafford Rangers), Steve Butler (Maidstone United), Paul Davies (Kidderminster Harriers) and Mark Carter (Runcorn).

Manager Kevin Verity will also choose one of the following as a replacement for Kidderminster's Kim Casey who broke a leg during a recent GMVC match with Welling United:-

Paul Cuddy (Altrincham), John Davison (Witton Albion), Peter Conning (Weymouth), Mike Farrelly (Altrincham), Steve Norris (Telford United) and Gary Abbott (Barnet)

GENERAL MOTORS VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

Up to and including Tuesday 8th March 1988

Pos		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Barnet	31	19	8	4	75	33	65
2	Lincoln City	29	19	5	5	60	32	62
3	Kidderminster Harriers	32	16	8	8	59	50	56
4	Kettering Town	31	16	7	8	48	33	55
5	Stafford Rangers	30	15	8	7	53	37	53
6	Telford United	31	15	7	9	50	36	52
7	Sutton United	30	12	12	6	53	34	48
8	Weymouth	27	14	4	9	37	23	46
9	Macclesfield Town	28	13	6	9	43	38	45
10	Runcorn	29	12	9	8	39	34	45
11	Maidstone United	28	11	7	10	54	46	40
12	Cheltenham Town	31	9	13	9	48	50	40
13	Enfield	31	11	7	13	51	58	40
14	Boston United	31	10	6	15	41	48	36
15	Fisher Athletic	31	8	11	12	33	40	36
16	Altrincham	30	9	7	14	36	45	34
17	Wycombe Wanderers	33	8	9	16	40	67	33
18	Northwich Victoria	27	6	9	12	26	41	27
19	Welling United	28	7	4	17	34	50	25
20	Bath City	29	5	8	16	33	53	23
21	Wealdstone	30	3	13	14	24	50	22
22	Dagenham	33	5	6	22	32	71	21



YEOVIL TOWN took the lead of the Vauxhall-Opel League for the first time this season during February but slip-ups at home to bottom club Hitchin (1-1), away to Leytonstone (0-1) and away to Dulwich (1-1) allowed BROMLEY to take a regain a slender lead at the top of the table.

BROMLEY have also been lacking consistency but they did beat WINDSOR & ETON during February at Hayes Lane when ex-Wycombe striker Matt Carmichael scored on his debut for Bromley in their 2-1 victory. Bromley failed to take advantage of Yeovil's lack of form when they lost at Farnborough (0-1), drew at Hitchin (1-1) and then drew at Hayes (1-1). Bromley's remaining fixtures take in a visit to Yeovil April 9, which is one of only five remaining home fixtures for Yeovil.

HITCHIN TOWN's recent revival has been down to several signings made by new Manager Doug Parkin. Gary Roberts has joined on loan from Maidstone United and made his debut in the 1-1 draw with Kingstonian - the Club's first point since December. Also on loan are a trio from Barnet - Nicky Ironton, Lee Payne and Steve Cox. Parkin, who replaced Jimmy Holmes in January, has also signed ex-Wycombe and Crystal Palace midfielder Steve Perrin in a bid to avoid the drop.

WOKINGHAM TOWN continued their best ever run in the F A Trophy when they defeated Macclesfield Town 2-0 in the quarter-final at Wokingham. Town are enjoying their most successful season ever but could find a fixture pile-up damaging their Wembley hopes. At the beginning of March they still had 17 League games to play plus a two-legged Trophy semi-final with Telford, two-legs against Hayes in the A C Delco Cup semi-final and a semi-final in the Berks & Bucks.



AYLESBURY UNITED are now firm favourites to take the Beazer Home Premier Division Championship and unlike last season are not involved in any cups following elimination from the Berks & Bucks at home to Wokingham Town. Rumours that 'The Ducks' are to sell their ground were recently quashed by the Directors at Buckingham Road when they issued the following statement:-

"There is no truth whatsoever to the rumours regarding any possible sale of the ground. Moreover there is no intention to sell the ground in the future. We have here one of the best grounds in non-League football that will comfortably enable us to become part of the GMVC should we be fortunate enough to win the League this season."



In the Northern Premier League it looks like CHORLEY who will joining the GMVC next season following an unbeaten stretching back to November 23 when they lost on the artificial surface at HYDE UNITED. Second-placed MORECAMBE have also not lost a League game since September 14 (also at Hyde) but have drawn too many games to make an impression on the promotion place.

At the other end of the table there has been considerable trouble for OSWESTRY TOWN this season. Founded in 1860 and the oldest senior club in the world, they decided to move from their Victoria Road ground to a grant-aided community stadium on the outskirts of the town - the move being planned for the end of this season and being partly funded by the sale of their ground to Sunley Homes. This proposed move then 'fell through' following the discovery of an ancient covenant dating back to the start of the century which prohibits the development of the new site for anything other than housing. With the sale of Victoria Road already completed and suitable alternative sites to NPL standard unavailable, they have been left with no alternative but to resign from the NPL. However, the Club still hope to play in the Central Wales League next season.

VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Tuesday 8th March 1988

POS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Bromley	30	17	6	7	49	25	57
2	Yeovil Town	28	17	5	6	45	24	56
3	Slough Town	32	16	6	10	54	33	54
4	Farnborough Town	31	16	6	10	53	35	54
5	Windsor & Eton	31	14	10	7	44	28	52
6	Leytonstone/Ilford	30	14	8	8	42	29	50
7	Hayes	27	13	7	7	45	34	46
8	St Albans City	32	14	4	14	54	52	46
9	Carshalton Athletic	27	13	6	8	41	31	45
10	Wokingham Town	24	14	3	7	35	25	45
11	Hendon	28	12	6	10	45	41	42
12	Tooting & Mitcham Utd	26	11	7	8	35	35	40
13	Bishops' Stortford	30	11	5	13	40	43	38
14	Bognor Regis Town	28	10	8	10	33	39	38
15	Harrow Borough	29	10	7	12	36	40	37
16	Kingstonian	32	9	9	14	34	45	36
17	Leyton-Wingate	26	9	6	11	34	40	33
18	Dulwich Hamlet	32	7	8	17	32	54	29
19	Croydon	28	5	10	13	25	35	25
20	Barking	30	4	9	17	23	43	21
21	Hitchin Town	29	4	7	18	24	54	19
22	Basingstoke Town	28	3	9	16	22	53	18

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Tuesday 8th March 1988

POS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Aylesbury United	29	19	6	4	53	22	63
2	Crawley Town	33	15	11	7	61	51	56
3	Dartford	29	16	7	6	50	29	55
4	Bromsgrove Rovers	28	15	6	7	44	26	51
5	Cambridge City	29	15	5	9	57	32	50
6	Leicester United	30	12	11	7	56	41	47
7	Worcester City	26	14	5	7	36	29	47
8	Dorchester Town	32	12	9	11	38	40	45
9	Corby Town	30	11	7	12	41	46	40
10	Fareham Town	26	10	9	7	36	35	39
11	Alvechurch	28	10	9	9	34	40	39
12	Burton Albion	31	9	10	12	47	51	37
13	Bedworth United	28	9	10	9	38	44	37
14	Chelmsford City	28	8	8	12	39	45	32
15	Willenhall Town	28	8	8	12	31	45	32
16	Nuneaton Borough	31	7	10	14	47	56	31
17	Shepshed Charterhouse	30	7	9	14	38	50	30
18	Gosport Borough	30	7	9	14	26	40	30
19	Ashford Town	26	6	9	11	31	42	27
20	Redditch United	26	6	8	12	40	45	26
21	V S Rugby	27	5	11	11	33	43	26
22	Witney Town	27	3	7	17	25	49	16

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Tuesday 8th March 1988

POS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Chorley	29	19	6	4	61	25	63
2	Morecambe	29	14	13	2	47	24	55
3	Hyde United	30	16	7	7	64	45	55
4	Worksop Town	30	15	9	6	57	38	54
5	Rhyl	31	14	11	6	45	26	53
6	Frickley Athletic	31	15	5	11	44	41	50
7	Barrow	26	15	4	7	50	19	49
8	Bangor City	30	13	8	9	54	41	47
9	Goole Town	32	13	7	12	50	41	46
10	Southport	29	12	10	7	36	31	46
11	Marine	29	12	9	8	50	30	45
12	Witton Albion	30	11	9	10	37	35	42
13	Buxton	31	10	11	10	59	53	41
14	Horwich	28	11	5	12	34	29	38
15	Caernarfon Town	27	9	10	8	26	24	37
16	South Liverpool	29	7	15	7	41	43	36
17	Gateshead	34	9	6	19	47	59	33
18	Mossley	31	7	9	15	36	52	30
19	Gainsborough Trinity	33	6	8	19	26	68	26
20	Matlock Town	28	6	7	15	34	55	25
21	Workington	33	5	3	25	23	87	18
22	Oswestry Town	34	3	8	23	29	86	17

SEASON BY SEASON

1907-8

SUMMARY by Paul Lewis.

If you feel that The Wanderers are doing badly this season, then study the form of season 1907/08 where a record of conceding more than 100 goals in their 33 matches and picking up only 3 points from their League programme, made this the 'worst ever season' in the history of the Club.

1907/08 was to be 'The Chairboys' eleventh and final season of competing in the Second Division of the Southern League. The previous ten seasons had seen the Wanderers continually struggle against professional opposition such as Fulham, Crystal Palace and Watford and having finished in bottom place the previous two seasons, 1907/08 was always going to be difficult.

It was not until the final month of the season that the first League points were gained - ironically on April 1 when Brighton & Hove Albion were the 'fools' following a 4-0 victory for the Wanderers. Prior to this game the Wanderers playing record in the League had read P 13 - W 0 - D 0 - L 13 - F 7 - A 59.

There was little more success in Cup competitions where early exits were made from the F A Cup and the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. In the Amateur Cup there was a disaster in the Second Round following a First Round success over Reading Amateurs. Wanderers travelled to Kidwell's Park in Maidenhead to play Maidenhead Norfolks where those who had travelled from Wycombe on the 'special' train were soon disappointed. Three goals conceded in the first five minutes and a missed penalty from Roberts saw the Wanderers beaten 6-0. The Bucks Free Press headed their report 'EXTRAORDINARY SCORING' and the following week included the following piece from a Norfolkian fan:-

"Poor little Wycombe Wanderers wanderered down Maidenhead way,

'Tis true they were only half-hearted upon that fateful day,

The Norfolks they did spy it, so whacked in six to none,

It opened the eyes of the Chairmakers to see how quick 'twas done,

And Roberts that dashing forward, who won boxes of 'fags' at the fair,

Found it harder to score a penalty when he'd got a goalkeeper there,

But still they are not downhearted, they mean to win something yet,

Not a word, hush, let me whisper, it's a spoon, that's the trophy they'll get."

Some peculiar weather, including gales and rain storms, through February and March were matched in April with a heavy snow fall on the final day of the season. Champions, Southend United were the victims of a wasted trip to the 'Chair Metropolis' and had to return two days later where the cold weather reduced the gate returns to 5 shillings and 9 pence (29p).

The Bucks Free Press's Football correspondent, summed up the Wanderers season with the following statement in the BFP on 1 May 1908;

"The Wycombe Wanderers' doings during the season of 1907/08 are the most disastrous in the annals of the Club. Injuries have followed them all through the season and almost every week they have had players on the damaged list. It is useless for me to dwell on the past, it cannot be improved, but the Committee can do one thing, and that is, to set to work to put their house in order ready for next September, and not leave matters, as is their usual wont, until the football season is about to start....The officials should realise that their supporters will want better value for money than they have been having."



COMPETITION	PL	W	D	L	FOR	AGA
Southern League (Div 2)	18	1	1	16	16	72
F A Challenge Cup	3	1	1	1	6	5
F A Amateur Cup	3	1	1	1	5	9
Berks & Bucks Senior Cup	3	1	1	1	4	4
Friendly	6	3	0	3	11	12
TOTAL	33	7	4	22	42	102

GAME	DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	V	RESULT	H-T
----	----	-----	----	-	-----	---
1	07/09/07	Southend United	SL	A	L 0-5	(0-2)
2	14/09/07	Tunbridge Wells	SL	H	L 2-4	(2-2)
3	21/09/07	Reading Amateurs	FAC p	H	W 5-3	(1-2)
4	28/09/07	Salisbury City	SL	A	L 0-4	(0-2)
5	05/10/07	Shepherds Bush	FAC 1q	H	D 1-1	(1-1)
6	10/10/07	Shepherds Bush	FAC 1qr	A	L 0-1	(0-1)
7	12/10/07	Southampton (Res)	SL	A	L 2-6	(1-3)
8	02/11/07	Slough	Fr	H	W 4-3	(1-3)
9	09/11/07	Swindon Town (Res)	SL	A	L 0-8	(-)
10	23/11/07	Slough	Fr	A	L 0-1	(0-1)
11	30/11/07	Marlow	Fr	A	L 2-3	(2-0)
12	07/12/07	Aylesbury United	B&B 1	A	D 0-0	(0-0)
13	14/12/07	Aylesbury United	B&B 1r	H	W 3-2	(0-1)
14	21/12/07	Portsmouth (Res)	SL	A	L 0-3	(0-1)
15	26/12/07	Aston Manor (Birmingham)	Fr	H	L 1-3	(0-2)
16	28/12/07	Swindon Town (Res)	SL	H	L 0-4	(0-2)
17	04/01/08	Reading Amateurs	AC 1	A	D 0-0	(0-0)
18	11/01/08	Reading Amateurs	AC 1 r	H	W 5-3	(3-2)
19	18/01/08	Chesham Town	B&B 2	A	L 1-2	(1-1)
20	25/01/08	Maidenhead Norfolkiens	AC 2	A	L 0-6	(0-3)
21	08/02/08	Southampton (Res)	SL	H	L 1-3	(0-2)
22	22/02/08	Croydon Common	SL	H	L 0-2	(0-0)
23	29/02/08	Hastings & St Leonards	SL	A	L 1-6	(-)
24	09/03/08	Hastings & St Leonards	SL	H	L 0-5	(0-1)
25	14/03/08	Brighton & Hove A (Res)	SL	A	L 1-3	(0-1)
26	21/03/08	Tunbridge Wells	SL	A	L 0-6	(0-4)
27	28/03/08	Upton Park	Fr	H	W 3-2	(3-2)
28	01/04/08	Brighton & Hove A (Res)	SL	H	W 4-0	(1-0)
29	04/04/08	Portsmouth (Res)	SL	H	L 0-2	(0-1)
30	11/04/08	Croydon Common	SL	A	L 2-5	(2-1)
31	18/04/08	Salisbury City	SL	H	D 2-2	(1-0)
32	21/04/08	Marlow	Fr	H	W 1-0	(1-0)
33	30/04/08	Southend United	SL	H	L 1-4	(0-1)

SOUTHERN LEAGUE - DIVISION TWO
Final Table 1907/08

Pos		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Southend United	18	13	3	2	47	16	29
2	Portsmouth (Res)	18	10	5	3	39	22	25
3	Croydon Common	18	10	3	5	35	25	23
4	Hastings & St Leonards	18	10	2	6	43	29	22
5	Southampton (Res)	18	7	4	7	54	46	18
6	Tunbridge Wells Rangers	18	7	3	8	42	38	17
7	Salisbury City	18	6	4	8	35	46	16
8	Swindon Town (Res)	18	5	5	8	36	40	15
9	Brighton & Hove A (Res)	18	4	4	10	34	47	12
10	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	18	1	1	16	16	72	3



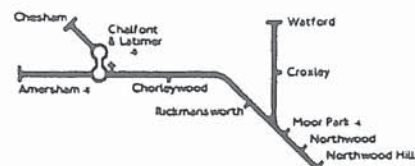
LEYTONSTONE F.C.



A TRIP THROUGH METROLAND... to the Twilight Zones of Ilford and Leytonstone.

Leading on from Pete Oxbrow's article in last month's issue about the demise of the grounds of Ilford and Leytonstone, this month we investigate deeper. By strange coincidence CG reporter, Simon Burrage, had already spent a cold January day travelling to these forgotten sites - for some reason he decided to travel via the Metropolitan Underground line from Chesham. He assures me that he is not a trainspotter or a "Groundhopper" (When will that word come up on *Call My Bluff*? I'm sure no-one will believe it's true meaning.)

Why Chesham, I hear no-one ask? Well, apart from living nearby, the reason really dates back to when I had my first 'proper' job in this pleasant and remarkable town. The Chesham station, in fact, serves only a single train which spends all day shuttling passengers between two small Buckinghamshire towns, where they may join the the main Metropolitan line to London - what a marvellously eccentric idea. I promised myself that one day I would use this service, if only to go there and back for the sheer hell of it.



So, some nine years later, I finally found myself an excuse for fulfilling that resolution. I'd always been interested by the history of the line anyway - formerly the Metropolitan Railway - the World's first underground rail system, running from London through to Amersham, and originally, as far as the villages around Aylesbury. This was the railway that gave rise to the concept known as 'Metroland', whereby in the 1930's Londoners were actively encouraged to move from the city out to the then quiet, leafy areas like Wembley and Harrow, and to use the line for commuting to work in London - quite a revolutionary idea at the time. The excuse I had come up with for making this particular pilgrimage was to visit the sites of two of my favourite football grounds, namely Granleigh Road, Leytonstone and Lynn Road, Ilford. Many Wycombe followers will have vivid memories of these two grounds; after all, it is only about 10 years ago that Ilford F.C. sold their ground when the plans for their new stadium fell through - leading to the eventual amalgamation with Leytonstone. And it can only be 5 years ago (if that) that Leytonstone/Ilford left Granleigh Road and moved in with Walthamstow Avenue at Green Pond Road.

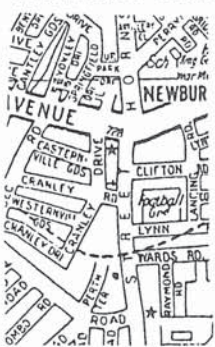


Granleigh Road was always my favourite away ground; indeed, it was the venue for the first away League game I ventured to with Wycombe, back in the mid-seventies. I can't remember much about the game, other than that it was won by two typically brilliant goals from Tony Horseman. But even if I hadn't gone there a half-a-dozen times since, I'd never have forgotten the ground - three sided with houses along one touchline, a big partially covered terrace behind one goal, three steps of covered terracing behind the other end, and a curiously shaped main stand on the railway side, with the BR station virtually overhanging one of the corner flags.

The whole ground was so oddly designed and had an overwhelming feeling of history and character; I loved it. Now in 1988, I walked towards Granleigh Road, not really knowing what to expect - I didn't have any prior knowledge as to whether the ground still stood, or had been demolished. It didn't take long to find the answer; the old Leytonstone ground is now a building site. Being quite

unprepared for what I was going to find, I must say I was quite choked as I walked through what used to be the main turnstiles and was now the muddy beginnings of a new cul-de-sac. Half-built houses, lorries, bulldozers and cement-mixers were all around and bricklayers, builders and labourers were hard at work as I solemnly trudged through the mess of sand, bricks and mud, across what I suspected had once been the centre-circle of the pitch. I suddenly had the feeling of being very unsure of where in the world I was. Have you ever seen that 'Planet of the Apes' film where at the very end, Charlton Heston walks along a beach and finds the half-buried remains of the Statue of Liberty, and realises where he is and what has happened? It felt a bit like that when, towards the back of the building site, I spotted an old corrugated-iron fence, surely left over from the old ground, and, I suspect, all that remains of it.

By now the builders were beginning to give me a few funny looks. Why is that civvy standing in the middle of our site - why does he look as though he's about to burst into tears?! I turned around and walked back, pausing briefly at the edge of the site to ask a builder mixing some cement "Do you know what used to be here?" I couldn't understand the reply, growled in a strong Irish accent, but the gist of it seemed to be that he didn't, and couldn't give a toss anyway. Heading back to the tube station, it occurred to me that less than 20 years earlier, thousands of fans had met at the ground for the journey to Wembley to see Leytonstone win the 1968 Amateur Cup - my memories of matches there were of attendances less than 150 - and there lies, I suppose, part of the reason why Granleigh Road will soon be full of 'Yuppies' in semi-detached houses rather than football fans 'freezing to death' and drinking Bovril.



And so on to Newbury Park station, 4 stops away on the Central Line, and a walk around what used to be Ilford F.C. Not the slightest trace of the site's former glories now - the blocks of flats went up years ago, around a new road named Dellow Close. I'm not sure what exactly I was looking for as I wandered around the new flats and garages - an old floodlight pylon or a goalpost lying on the ground, perhaps? Hardly likely. Ilford....I could only remember a couple of games I'd seen Wycombe play there, one being when



we went there with Ilford rooted at the bottom of the Isthmian League table and yet to win a game. We managed to present them with a point in a 1-1 draw (our equaliser went in off Micky Holifield's knee!). The other occasion, however, was a classic when we won 3-1 on the last Saturday of a season, on a blazing hot day. Who can forget John Still (now injecting his own brand of discipline with Maidstone United) collecting Ilford's Player of the Season award before the kick-off, and then being sent off for elbowing Geoff Anthony in the face after just 5 minutes?! Great memories.... "Are you looking for someone, love?" asked an elderly woman as I walked out of Dellow Close. "No not really. There used to be a football ground here before these flats were built, didn't there?" "Did there really" she laughed, "Good job it's not here now then, we don't want all them Football Hooligans around here, do we?" No madam, I don't suppose you do.

Simon Burrage

You may be interested to know that in recent months there have been attempts to resurrect Ilford F.C. They now have a manager and players willing to take the field. Redbridge Council are due to discuss, in April, the possibility of finding them a home - home or no home, they may decide to play all their games away from home next season in an attempt to strengthen their case. Good luck Ilford.

ADDRESSES

ARSENAL ECHO ECHO (Arsenal) 30p plus SAE
30 Dene Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4DD

AWOL (Meadowbank) 50p plus A5 SAE
66 Broughton Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3SA

THE CHELSEA INDEPENDENT (Chelsea) 20p plus A5 SAE
45 Ridley Road, Wimbledon SW19 1ET

DAGGER MAGAZINE (Dagenham) 40p plus A5 SAE
3 Westhill, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes, MK14 6BG

THE ELMSLIE ENDER (Wealdstone) 40p plus SAE
37 Grange Road, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2PR

FLOODLIGHT (Colchester United) 30p plus SAE
10 Sweet Briar Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 5HJ

KICK UP THE R'S (QPR) 50p including postage
51a, Alexandra Drive, Upper Norwood, London SE19 1AW

LEYTON ORIENTEAR (Leyton Orient) 50p including postage
1, York Road, Leyton, London E10 5QG

MURPHY'S MOB (Cheltenham Town) 20p plus SAE
46 Long Mynd Avenue, Up Hartherly, Cheltenham, GL51 5QN

NOT THE VIEW (Celtic) 50p plus A5 SAE
P O Box 306, Glasgow G21 2EA

THE PIE (Notts County) 30p plus A5 SAE
61, Stratford Road, West Bridgeford, Nottingham, NG2 6AZ.

TALK OF THE TOWN END (Enfield) 30p plus A5 SAE
9 Belgrave Gardens, Oakwood, London N14 4TS

TERRACE TALK (York City) 30p plus A5 SAE
9, Waverley Street, York, YO3 7QZ

The
Arsenal Echo Echo
November 10p

● Picat resigns ● Hartley sacked
● Venables goes missing in Florida
● Archie's departed back to Argentina

SPURS NAME
NEW BOSS



"Ivring Scholar looked at my record and said 'Lester, you're the man for Tottenham'"

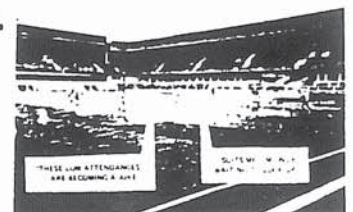
MEADOWBANK THISTLE BRAKE CLUB
AWOL #5
NO SHEEP TILL BILSTON 50p



LAUREL + HARDY SWANS
ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER
ALBERT CAMUS
PREMIER THISTLE?

Warning: The magazine needs its mouth scrubbed out

A KICK UP THE R'S
AN ALTERNATIVE LOOK AT
QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS F.C.
Issue 2
Oct-Jan
1987/88



INSIDE MARK DENNIS JAMES ANDERSON WINS CALL FOR FLOODLIGHTS

ENGLAND CRICKET HUMPHREY MARK DENNIS BLAMED

ARCADE MARK DENNIS HITS OUT

50p

THIS WEEKS TOP TEN - Targets for Football Fanzines

- 1 - Membership Schemes
- 2 - Fences obscuring the view of the pitch
- 3 - Play-offs
- 4 - Plastic pitches
- 5 - Biased, inaccurate and trivialised newspaper reporting
- 6 - T V Coverage
- 7 - Silly Cup competitions (Simod, Sherpa Van, etc)
- 8 - Robert Maxwell
- 9 - FA/Football League administrators
- 10 - Property Developers

BARNET OR LINCOLN?

There seems to be several trains of thought regarding the outcome of the seemingly 'two-horse' race for this season's Conference Title and the subsequent reward of promotion to the Football League. One is that BARNET should achieve promotion just for the pure fact that it would stop LINCOLN from regaining their Football League status at the first attempt - the feeling being that promotion for LINCOLN would reflect badly on the creditability of the Conference. Another line of thought, is that LINCOLN have taken their professionalism to the extreme and the Conference would be better off without them. This was emphasised in an article in the Birmingham Sports Argos, last November:

'Good Riddance' to Lincoln

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE by MARTIN SWAIN

Lincoln City, ambitiously chasing an immediate return to the Football League, this week received a scornful message from the rest of the GM Vauxhall Conference - "Good Riddance!"

For Lincoln are on the receiving end of a series of attacks from Conference managers that confirm thoughts that they are the league's most unpopular team.

□□

Barnet manager Barry Fry is still seething over their recent match at Sincil Bank, when they were beaten 2-1 amid scenes on and off the pitch that have prompted an FA enquiry.

Fry said: "People have kept telling me they will not be sorry to

see Lincoln go or that they hope we can stop them winning the title. After what happened up there we are more determined than ever.

"I don't like their attitude. They are taking professionalism too far. I just hope they come unstuck. And we were very upset over the racial abuse our black players received from their crowd."

Fry receives support from other bosses. John Murphy, Cheltenham's manager, is not a man who readily seeks controversy but he backed up Fry's opinion.

□□

"The only thing that directly concerned me was the state of the dressing rooms for the visitors which were absolutely disgraceful. They were filthy, the floor was awash with water - I would never allow that to happen at Cheltenham."

"But I also know what people mean when they are talking about the at-

titude at Lincoln. One thing you can generally rely on in our league is a warmth and friendliness after matches win, lose or draw. But they clearly feel they should not be in the Conference."

□□

And Runcorn manager John King agrees: "We felt we were treated disgracefully there. They were very unfriendly and clearly think they are just too big for the league."

Lincoln plough on regardless though in their single-minded pursuit of Fourth Division re-entry and have beefed up their campaign with the £10,000 purchase of Wycombe midfielder Graham Breasington.

In contrast, Fry has suffered a body blow with 'keeper Steve Humphries expected to miss the rest of the season after breaking his leg in the 1-1 draw against third placed Kettering.

Peter Hunter, the Conference secretary, also expressed his concern over the competitiveness of the Conference this season when he spoke to The Times last October.

"The introduction last season of automatic promotion to the fourth division has undoubtedly changed the

atmosphere within our League....We're experiencing the sort of problems we've never had to face before, like handling consistently big crowds and segregating supporters. Unfortunately that has gone hand in hand with some worrying developments like increased criticism of referees, which is a symptom of the growing competitiveness, and the souring of relationships between our clubs"

There can be no arguing that relegation for LINCOLN last season has injected a new fight into the Club. Virtually the entire squad was changed, along with the Manager, crowds have increased by over 50% and there now seems a definite ambition. Quite whether this same attitude would have been taken if LINCOLN had avoided the drop is a question that can't be answered but by all accounts would appear unlikely.

Last season BARNET appeared to have secured promotion by the middle of February but injuries to key players and involvement in the F A Trophy resulted in Scarborough spoiling the party at Underhill. It's quite obvious that the influence behind the success at Barnet lies with Chairman Stan Flashman. Flashman took over the helm at Barnet in May 1985 when the Club were in serious trouble with the Taxmen. Since then he has transformed BARNET from a relegation haunted side to a team on the verge of Football League status.



Flashman - Football League Chairman?

Of course this success has not come cheap - £18,000 for Noel Ashford, £15,000 for Gary Abbott plus many other minor signings that have literally drained the semi-professional playing talent from the south. However, the basis for a good side was always there at BARNET with the likes of the skillfull Edwin Stein, prolific scorer Nicky Evans and demon midfielder John Margerrison, all with over five years at Underhill.

In comparison LINCOLN's new look squad has also cost them dearly - over £150,000 spent so far this season, including £48,000 for Paul Smith and £34,000 for Andy Moore. However, these purchases have been heavily offset by the sale of last season's relegation squad. Most notable were the £85,00 received for 'keeper Lee Butler from Aston Villa and the £60,000 received for Gary West from Gillingham. In total over £200,000 has been generated from the sale of players and credit must go the Board at Lincoln for making this money available to new Manager Colin Murphy. MURPHY'S MISSION - BACK TO THE LEAGUE is how City describe their quest this season and Murphy, who was Manager at Sincil Bank when they just missed out on promotion to the Second Division in 1982, is now slouch when it comes to expressing his views on the game. In a recent programme he aired his concern of involvement in the F A Trophy affecting City's promotion ambitions.

Murphy's Message

However it is for one to decide whether or not positive spin offs exceed the negative areas and in this respect success does provide interest and optimism for supporters, it provides a playing arena for players which is very very much conducive to confidence forming matters and none the least it produces revenue for the club. Productive or counter productive?

One has their personal views in this respect but ultimately we are a professional Football Club and we need to endeavour to participate for the purpose of succeeding in every competition we enter.

LINCOLN's Wembley aspirations are now dead for another season - leaving just one target. If they achieve promotion they will undoubtedly go on to be a better team. It will also kill off the myth that relegation to the Conference means 'going into the Wilderness' - I just hope that their last game of the season isn't as important to them as it might be for their opponents!

Paul Lewis

THE RACE FOR THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

REMAINING FIXTURES

BARNET

8 March v FISHER ATHLETIC (H)
12 March v MACCLESFIELD (H)
19 March v Wealdstone (A)
26 March v KIDDERMINSTER (H)
2 April v Boston United (A)
4 April v MAIDSTONE UTD (H)
9 April v WYCOMBE WAND (H)
16 April v Northwich Vic (A)
23 April v Kidderminster (A)
30 April v RUNCORN (H)
2 May v Welling (A)
T B A v Weymouth (A)

LINCOLN CITY

12 March v Kidderminster (A)
19 March v Enfield (A)
26 March v ALTRINCHAM (H)
4 April v BOSTON UNITED (H)
2 April v Fisher Athletic (A)
9 April v Cheltenham Town (A)
12 April v Macclesfield (A)
16 April v WEALDSTONE (H)
19 April v Bath City (A)
23 April v Kettering Town (A)
30 April v STAFFORD RANGERS (H)
2 May v WYCOMBE WAND (H)
T B A v MAIDSTONE UTD (H)

Next Month: NEWPORT or MARLOW?



Some of you may have read the leaflet distributed in the Wycombe/Lincoln programme earlier this season giving details of the FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION. For those of you who haven't joined, here is some additional information.

The F S A was formed in 1985 in reaction to the Brussels tragedy. Basically, its three main aims are:

1. To increase the influence of supporters through representation on the game's governing bodies.
2. To improve conditions for football supporters generally (ticket allocations, admission charges, ground conditions, etc).
3. To encourage goodwill among supporters of different clubs.

Since its formation the F S A has had talks with the Football League, The Football Trust, the police, the P F A and the Wembley Stadium authorities, to name but a few. The people in power are beginning to respect the F S A and recognise them as a legitimate supporters authority. After all, supporters are the biggest sponsors of the game - roughly £56 million a year compared to less than £2 million by Barclays.

The F S A desperately needs more members to establish its credibility. The cost of annual membership is £2.00 - this covers the cost of a membership card, and six - postage paid - issues of the national newsletter (now expanded to sixteen pages of A5). Members are also entitled to elect delegates to represent them at the national conference, and to attend the conference themselves. They can also elect (and replace) their own branch officers.

The London area has its own branch of the F S A and meets on the first Thursday of each month at the University of London Union in Mallet Street. These meetings are well attended and there is a guest speaker each month. The meetings start at 7.00pm - membership can be obtained on the night along with subscription to the London Branch newsletter - which is £2.00 for twelve monthly issues (4 pages of A5).

.....

I would like to join the Football Supporters Association and I agree to abide by its rules. I enclose the membership fee of £2.00 (cheques or PO's payable to Football Supporters Association)

(Block Capitals)

Surname Forenames

Address

Post Code..... Telephone No.....

Team supported.....

Indicate Age: Under 16....16-21....Over 21.... Are you disabled? Yes/No

Signature..... Date.....

Send to: F S A, 59 Oakwood Road, Halewood, Liverpool, L26 1XD



Results

Saturday 6 February 1988

Boston	0-2	Macclesfield	1526
Cheltenham	1-1	Northwich	1081
Enfield	3-2	Weymouth	713
Kidderminster	4-1	Altrincham	1115
Stafford	1-1	Barnet	1867
Wycombe	1-0	Wealdstone	1773

Monday 8 February 1988

Dagenham	0-1	Sutton	498
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Saturday 13 February 1988

Barnet	3-2	Weymouth	2414
Dagenham	2-1	Wycombe	595
Kettering	1-1	Bath	841
Northwich	1-1	Kidderminster	664
Sutton	1-1	Welling	534

Wednesday 17 February 1988

Lincoln	1-1	Sutton	3201
Weymouth	2-1	Wealdstone	694

@ AFC Bournemouth

Saturday 20 February 1988

Cheltenham	3-3	Bath	1190
Enfield	2-0	Barnet	2216
Kidderminster	1-1	Fisher	1136
Lincoln	0-0	Telford	3500
Macclesfield	0-0	Kettering	1502
Maidstone	2-2	Altrincham	850
Northwich	1-0	Dagenham	695
Runcorn	3-0	Boston	593
Sutton	2-2	Wycombe	983
Wealdstone	1-1	Welling	551

Wednesday 24 February 1988

Maidstone	2-2	Cheltenham	580
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Saturday 27 February 1988

Altrincham	1-1	Barnet	1540
Bath	0-1	Runcorn	556
Boston	0-1	Wealdstone	1178
Dagenham	0-3	Lincoln	832
Fisher	1-0	Cheltenham	471
Kettering	3-0	Weymouth	1010
Stafford	3-0	Northwich	1148
Telford	1-0	Maidstone	1428
Welling	1-2	Kidderminster	700
Wycombe	5-0	Macclesfield	1492

Monday 29 February 1988

Fisher	0-0	Wycombe	544
Kidderminster	1-0	Boston	1029
Northwich	2-1	Macclesfield	913

Tuesday 1 March 1988

Enfield	2-3	Sutton	438
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Wednesday 2 March 1988

Lincoln	2-1	Welling	3218
Runcorn	2-1	Weymouth	514

Saturday 5 March 1988

Bath	3-3	Kidderminster	575
Boston	1-0	Dagenham	1021
Kettering	1-0	Welling	920
Maidstone	2-1	Barnet	1329
Northwich	2-0	Runcorn	998
Sutton	2-0	Stafford	611
Weymouth	1-1	Fisher	1197

Tuesday 8 March 1988

Barnet	2-0	Fisher	2191
Wycombe	0-1	Kidderminster	1583

FISHER IN THE DOCKS

The trip to Rotherhithe for the Fisher/Wycombe game on February 29, was for most Wycombe fans their first visit to the Surrey Docks Stadium in Salter Road. The evening itself was very reminiscent of 'Isthmian days'; gatemen counting their money in the bar prior to the game; Club officials mixing with mere 'supporters' in the bar; and players losing their way to the dressing rooms. Outside the facilities were basic but considering most of the facilities for spectators were built during last summer, understandable. Their ground was initially rejected by the GMVC ground grading committee. Fisher appealed and then spent the next three weeks carrying out the required work. This work included hard standing in front of the main stand, covering opposite the main stand and terracing behind both goals. The entire operation cost £90,000, half paid by Southwark Council and the remainder raised by the Club. The last piece of terracing was laid the night before the second visit by Conference officials. The site was then rejected again on the grounds that there was no hot water in the dressing rooms! A local plumber was called in and his handy work ensured a Conference place for Fisher. During the coming close season Fisher must build covering behind one goal, to keep their Conference place.



F A Trophy



4th Round

Altrincham	0-0	Barrow	1844
Cheltenham	2-4	Telford	3157
Enfield	1-0	Lincoln	2239
Wokingham	2-0	Macclesfield	1300

Replay

Barrow	2-1	Altrincham	5121
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Semi-Finals

1st Leg Saturday 2 April 1988

Barrow	v	Enfield
Telford	v	Wokingham

2nd Leg Saturday 9 April 1988

Enfield	v	Barrow
Wokingham	v	Telford



Fixtures

Saturday 12 March 1988
 Barnet Macclesfield
 Cheltenham Kettering
 Dagenham Enfield
 Kidderminster Lincoln
 Runcorn Maidstone
 Stafford Weymouth
 Sutton Bath
 Wealdstone Altrincham
 Welling Boston
 Wycombe Northwich

Saturday 19 March 1988
 Altrincham Fisher
 Boston Stafford
 Cheltenham Runcorn
 Dagenham Kettering
 Enfield Lincoln
 Kidderminster Maidstone
 Northwich Sutton
 Telford Bath
 Wealdstone Barnet
 Weymouth Macclesfield
 Wycombe Welling

Tuesday 22 March 1988
 Bath Weymouth
 Macclesfield Wealdstone
 Sutton Enfield
 Telford Kettering

Wednesday 23 March 1988
 Welling Maidstone

Saturday 26 March 1988
 Barnet Kidderminster
 Bath Wycombe
 Dagenham Telford
 Fisher Enfield
 Kettering Wealdstone
 Lincoln Altrincham
 Macclesfield Boston
 Maidstone Runcorn
 Northwich Welling
 Stafford Sutton
 Weymouth Cheltenham

Monday 28 March 1988
 Northwich Weymouth

Tuesday 29 March 1988
 Macclesfield Bath
 Sutton Kettering
 Wealdstone Stafford

Saturday 2 April 1988
 Bath Stafford
 Boston Barnet
 Fisher Lincoln
 Kidderminster Wealdstone
 Macclesfield Wycombe
 Maidstone Northwich
 Runcorn Welling
 Sutton Altrincham

Monday 4 April 1988
 Altrincham Enfield
 Barnet Maidstone
 Cheltenham Kidderminster
 Lincoln Boston
 Northwich Kettering
 Runcorn Fisher
 Stafford Dagenham
 Welling Macclesfield
 Wycombe Weymouth

Tuesday 5 April 1988
 Wealdstone Bath

Saturday 9 April 1988
 Barnet Wycombe
 Bath Maidstone
 Cheltenham Lincoln
 Dagenham Runcorn
 Kidderminster Sutton
 Macclesfield Fisher
 Weymouth Northwich

Monday 11 April 1988
 Kidderminster Northwich

Tuesday 12 April 1988
 Altrincham Stafford
 Macclesfield Lincoln

Wednesday 13 April 1988
 Maidstone Welling
 Weymouth Barnet

Saturday 16 April 1988
 Altrincham Bath
 Dagenham Cheltenham
 Enfield Runcorn
 Fisher Kidderminster
 Kettering Sutton
 Lincoln Wealdstone
 Maidstone Macclesfield
 Northwich Barnet
 Telford Wycombe
 Welling Stafford
 Weymouth Boston

Tuesday 19 April 1988
 Bath Lincoln

Wednesday 20 April 1988
 Weymouth Maidstone

Saturday 23 April 1988
 Altrincham Weymouth
 Boston Northwich
 Cheltenham Welling
 Kettering Lincoln
 Kidderminster Barnet
 Macclesfield Dagenham
 Maidstone Stafford
 Runcorn Bath
 Sutton Telford
 Wealdstone Fisher

Wednesday 27 April 1988
 Welling Telford
 Lincoln Maidstone

Saturday 30 April 1988
 Barnet Runcorn
 Bath Welling
 Boston Cheltenham
 Enfield Kettering
 Lincoln Stafford
 Northwich Maidstone
 Sutton Macclesfield
 Telford Fisher
 Weymouth Kidderminster
 Wycombe Altrincham

Monday 2 May 1988
 Altrincham Dagenham
 Cheltenham Sutton
 Lincoln Wycombe
 Macclesfield Telford
 Northwich Wealdstone
 Runcorn Kettering
 Stafford Boston
 Welling Barnet
 Weymouth Enfield

NEXT ISSUE

The final issue of Chairboys Gas for this season should come out during the final week of the season.